

From: Robert Williams
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Litigation

By way of introduction, I'm a retired engineer and, although I have owned numerous personal computers over the last twenty years, I still consider myself just an average computer user.

I hope you'll forgive my fervor in the matter of litigation against Microsoft, but like the VAST MAJORITY of computer owners, I (as well as the stock market) was appalled at the Department of Justice attack on Microsoft. Actually, the innovation and COMPATIBILITY of Microsoft's products have greatly improved life for the average computer owner. In addition, Microsoft is a most respected company, who has played a MAJOR roll in making the United States the world's undisputed technology leader (so seldom has it been that our US companies have not played second fiddle to the Japanese).

Under the guise of somehow protecting computer users, the DOJ forged ahead with this legal action as though they somehow knew more about what we wanted than we did ourselves (which, I feel, smacks a bit of "Big Brother-ism"). In part, I feel that the DOJ was overly swayed by the rantings of Microsoft's competitors (like Sun Microsystems) who had a vested interest in crippling the company. If one really wanted to do what is right for the computer market, they would get off Microsoft's back and let them continue giving us more innovative and reasonably priced products.

Judge Penfield Jackson has, of course, been revealed for what he actually was and the Department of Justice concluded the case with logical remedial actions. However, some nine states seem to have rationalized that the DOJ, along with the other 40 states (and most assuredly, we consumers) are all wrong and that they have a sacred obligation to set it all straight. Anytime something is held up to the scrutiny of a blood letting such as this has been, there are always some who will never let go (not unlike vultures who have been waiting in the wings to glean whatever benefits that might be realized from a lynching). Pardon the comparison, but we consumers view their action as classic ambulance chasing.

And, just when is enough, enough. Has anyone ever stopped to consider what this three year long ordeal, against one of the countries most admired companies, has already cost our country? I realize that this action by the dissenting states isn't costing them anything (I believe that Microsoft has to pick up their legal bills). It makes me wonder if they would be as compelled to carry on their "crusade" if it were on their nickel. I really hope that I'm wrong, but I get the strange feeling that somewhere in this pursuit, these nine states will actually be seeking a monetary settlements for their state's coffers.

Please don't take offence at these concerns. They are truly meant as constructive suggestions.

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